

What is claimed is:

1. A spark plug comprising a center electrode and a ground electrode spaced in an opposed relationship, wherein  
said center electrode comprises an iridium alloy,  
a discharge gap between said center electrode and said ground electrode is less than 1.1 mm,  
cross sections of said center electrode and said ground electrode are equal to or smaller than  $0.95 \text{ mm}^2$  in a spherical region where a distance from a midpoint of said discharge gap is within 0.6 mm, and  
a distal end portion of said center electrode includes a tip and a base portion supporting said tip, wherein said tip is configured into a cylindrical rod shape extending straight, and said base portion is configured into a truncated conical shape having a tapered surface expanding from a top of said base portion to a bottom of said base portion.

2. A spark plug comprising a center electrode and a ground electrode spaced in an opposed relationship, wherein  
said center electrode comprises an iridium alloy,  
said ground electrode comprises an alloy other than said iridium alloy,

a discharge gap between said center electrode and said ground electrode is less than 1.1 mm,

cross sections of said center electrode and said ground electrode are equal to or smaller than  $0.95 \text{ mm}^2$  in a spherical region where a distance from a midpoint of said discharge gap is within 0.6 mm, and

a voltage applied to said center electrode is lower than a voltage applied to said ground electrode.